

**Legislative Testimony  
Appropriations Committee  
Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments  
HB 5037 An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30,  
2023  
February 23, 2022**

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. Salomon. I have been practicing dentistry (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) in Connecticut for 4.5 years. I am from Baltimore, MD, completed dental school at the University of Maryland in 2011 and went on to complete an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2017.

I am writing in regards to the Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments for the Department of Social Services and the proposed increase to adult dental Medicaid reimbursement rates.

I am one of four surgeons in my practice in two offices that serve a wide range of patients from all backgrounds and locations throughout Connecticut. We are an extremely busy practice, and routinely are booked 6-8 weeks in advance. We are all on staff at Yale, where we teach, but also bring our complex patients. There is a high volume of Medicaid patients that require our surgical care, and less and less practitioners in the area who provide care to these patients. The issue is that the reimbursement for Medicaid is so low, that we lose money treating these patients. As I am sure you are aware, the costs of running a practice have only been steadily increasing, while reimbursement rates remain stagnant, or even have decreased. It is not a sustainable model, and if more providers do not serve these patients, the hospital clinic will become even more overwhelmed than is already is, which not only delays care, but puts patients at risk for further complications and a further stain on the healthcare system.

I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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